

Kinland Forest

Kinland Forest is a tract of land in Tuolumne County currently owned in equal parts by three siblings who are members of the Kinsinger family. The tract is 428 acres and is in Sections 15, 16, and 21 of Township 02North, Range 16E of the Mt. Diablo Base Meridian. It is in the Twain Harte US Geological Survey Quad map. The property is zoned TPZ (Timber Production Zone) by the county, which means it cannot be subdivided and developed.

The land was originally purchased in the 1930's by the current owners' great grandfather as a mining claim and was a 640 acre parcel. The tract is smaller today because pieces of the original property were sold at various times. While property was mined, three cabins were built for the miners to live in. In the 1950's, the current owners' grandparents did not wish to use it as a mining site and turned it into a summer retreat. A water system was developed, and a modern house was built in 1959.

A Nonindustrial Timber Harvest Plan (NTMP) for the property was written and approved in 1999, and the property was also registered as part of the American Tree Farm System, winning California Tree Farm of the Year in the early 2000's. Since the NTMP was approved, there have been 6 harvest entries, not all on the same parts of the property, and for different reasons. One entry was a salvage harvest of trees blown over in a wind storm and yielded only 9 truckloads of logs.

Having an NTMP qualifies this property to receive grant funding for forest improvement projects through the state and federal government. Funding is granted based on a formula for what kind of treatments are needed and the cost per acre that the government will pay for those treatments. Kinland Forest received an EQIP grant from the federal government in 2018 to remove bark beetle killed trees on south facing slopes. The several year drought and relatively low elevation of Kinland Forest made it susceptible to a moderate level of mortality, even though the forest is actively managed. The funding is available through the end of 2020, with four designated areas totaling 33.1 acres and a grant total of \$19,976.

The planned conservation treatment is called “Woody Residue Treatment – restoration/conservation treatment following catastrophic events”. That treatment is reimbursed at \$603.43 per acre. The dead trees are both standing and on the ground, and the wood is too rotten to use for lumber, so the logs will be loaded whole onto trucks or chipped onsite and either the logs or chips will be hauled to a biomass or shavings plant.

It is unlikely that the amount of the grant will cover all of the costs of logging, chipping if needed, and hauling of the material.

The property has also been used as a training site for Modesto Junior College’s Logging Sports team and as an outdoor classroom and fieldtrip destination for groups interested in forestry education and forest management.